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PRESS RELEASE

Department of Conservation and Recreation Announces the 2020 Fifth Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest

“Trees Please” will serve as the theme for this year’s poster contest

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Department of Conservation & Recreation

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BOSTON — Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Jim Montgomery today announced the theme of the agency's 2020 fifth grade Arbor Day Poster Contest: "*Trees Please*." Fifth graders from around the state enrolled in both public and private schools, as well as home-schooled students, are encouraged to participate in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest by creating posters highlighting this year's theme. Schools are then asked to host a poster contest to determine the winner. The winning poster from each school can then be submitted to the agency for review. Home schooled or non-participating school students may submit their posters and enter the contest individually.

"Trees are not only beautiful, but play a key role in the health of our environment, and I'm thrilled that each year fifth graders demonstrate this importance by participating in the Department of Conservation and Recreation's annual Arbor Day Poster Contest," **said DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery**. "I look forward to 2020's creative entries from students throughout the Commonwealth highlighting this year's theme '*Trees Please*'."

First place prizes for the DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest include a tree planting ceremony at the winner's school, a certificate for art and science supplies, and more. Second Place, Third Place, and Honorable Mention winners will also receive art and science supplies.

"The Arbor Day Poster Contest is a good chance for students to creatively express what they've learned," **said Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley**. "I hope that many of our fifth grade artists, scientists, activists, and arborists take the challenge."

Trees offer many benefits to people and to the environment, including:

- The reduction in energy use for heating and cooling;
- The cleansing of both water and air;
- The reduction of noise pollution;
- The beautification of communities; and,
- The providing of habitats for wildlife.

This year's theme, "*Trees Please*" is designed to highlight the importance of trees within Massachusetts's communities and diverse landscapes throughout the state. Additionally, the Arbor Day Poster Contest combines both art and science in an effort to instill the vital role trees have on the public's daily lives. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program, with support from the U.S. Forest Service, sponsors the annual contest for fifth graders across the Commonwealth. Posters must be submitted by March 15, 2020, and the contest is open to all students currently enrolled in the fifth grade. An Arbor Day Poster Contest Guide is available on the DCR website or can be obtained by contacting Mollie Freilicher, 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@mass.gov (<mailto:mollie.freilicher@mass.gov>).

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Department of Conservation & Recreation

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DCR manages state parks and oversees more than 450,000 acres throughout Massachusetts. It protects, promotes, and enhances the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

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